

5/27/76

5/29/76
76 MAY 28 AM 11 02

TIEFFENBERG

NNNNVV ESA98BRA157

PP RUEBA

DE RUEHC #1390 1482314

ZNY SSSSS ZZH

P 272214Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO RUEBBA/AMEMBASSY BIENOS AIRES PRIORITY 3060

INFO RUEBDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY 3216

RUEBNA/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 4696

BT

STATE 131390

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA

UNCLASSIFIED

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
AMB		✓	DAO		
DCM		✓	LEGATT		
			DEA		
POI	3		FAS		
ECOM		✓	AID		
POUR		✓	MILGP		
CO S		✓	PEA		
ADM			GSO		
USIS		✓	B & F		
SCI			CHRON		✓
BY			RF		

1. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN CALLED IN AMBASSADOR VAZQUEZ MAY 27 TO WARN HIM ABOUT THE GROWING CONCERN IN THE US ABOUT THE VIOLENCE IN ARGENTINA AND THE REPORTED DISAPPEARANCES OF INDIVIDUALS. THIS CONCERN IS BEING EXPRESSED BY MAJOR UNIVERSITIES, THE RESPONSIBLE PRESS - SUCH AS THE NEW YORK TIMES, AND BY MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS, AND IS HAVING AN UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON ARGENTINA'S IMAGE IN THIS COUNTRY. IF THIS CONTINUES, IT WOULD MAKE COOPERATION WITH ARGENTINA DIFFICULT, AS HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF CHILE. HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS ALSO THREATEN OUR RELATIONS WITH URUGUAY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MAY PASS AN AMENDMENT, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN ADOPTED BY THE PASSMAN SUBCOMMITTEE, CUTTING OFF ALL SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO URUGUAY.

2. AMBASSADOR RYAN SAID THERE IS CONCERN IN THE US NOT ONLY ABOUT THE ARRESTS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE GOA, BUT ALSO ABOUT THE FAILURE OF THE GOA TO CONTROL THE ACTIVITIES OF RIGHT-WING TERRORIST GROUPS. SOME BELIEVE THAT THE RECENT KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF URUGUAYAN PARLIAMENTARIANS MICHELINI AND GUTIERREZ RUIZ COULD NOT HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT WITHOUT THE TACIT SUPPORT OF AT LEAST SOME ARGENTINE OFFICIALS. RYAN ASKED WHETHER THE GOA INTENDED TO ISSUE

ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT OF INDIGNATION AT THESE MURDERS AND WHEN THE GOA PLANNED TO PUBLISH CONSOLIDATED LISTS OF ALL PERSONS ARRESTED SINCE THE COUP. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED MANY INQUIRIES ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part ☒ In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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p2 3. AMBASSADOR VAZQUEZ REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY STATEMENT WAS BEING ISSUED ON THE MICHELINI CASE OR WHEN THE LIST OF DETAINEES MIGHT BE PUBLISHED. HE SAID THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED OVER 500 INQUIRIES ABOUT VARIOUS PERSONS ARRESTED IN ARGENTINA. UNTIL RECENTLY HE HAD BEEN FORWARDING ONLY SELECTED LETTERS TO BUENOS AIRES FOR REPLY. THIS WEEK, HOWEVER, HE DECIDED TO SEND THE ENTIRE PACKAGE OF LETTERS TO BUENOS AIRES TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE GOA THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CONCERN IN THIS COUNTRY. HE SAID THE CASE OF MICHELINI AND GUTIERREZ RUIZ WAS A "TURNING POINT" WHICH SEEMED TO SHOW THAT THINGS WERE OUT OF CONTROL IN ARGENTINA.

4. AMBASSADOR RYAN SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL PROBLEM, ABOUT WHICH HE HAD FORMALLY EXPRESSED THE USG'S CONCERN, HE WISHED TO RAISE INFORMALLY AN INDIVIDUAL CASE IN WHICH IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS ARE INTERESTED. THIS IS THE CASE OF JACOBO ADRIAN TIEFFENBERG, A PEDIATRICIAN, WHO WAS ARRESTED ON OR ABOUT APRIL 2 IN BUENOS AIRES. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE NATURE OF THE QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM DURING HIS INTERROGATION SEEMED TO IMPLY AN ANTI-SEMITIC ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF HIS CAPTORS. A REPORT OF THIS SORT IS NATURALLY DISTURBING TO THE US JEWISH COMMUNITY. AMBASSADOR VAZQUEZ SAID HE WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THIS CASE, BUT WOULD SEND AN INQUIRY TO BUENOS AIRES.

5. AMBASSADOR VAZQUEZ SAID HE HAD SPOKEN WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT THE CASES OF ELIDA MESSINA AND GWENDA MAE LOKEN. WITH RESPECT TO THE LOKEN CASE, HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO HER EXPULSION FROM ARGENTINA. KISSINGER

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